APPENDIX D.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Archaeological Survey of the Tehachapi East Afterbay Enlargement Project, Kern County, California

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Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey of 291 acres of land on the western edge of Antelope Valley, Kern County, California. This project is part of an improvement to the California Aqueduct by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The State Department of Water Resources was created in 1956 and in 1960 construction began on the State Water Project. The project area includes the proposed afterbay location. In 2003, SRI was contracted to conduct archaeological survey in an area just west of the current project area that included the original proposed location of the afterbay. DWR has moved the proposed afterbay location to the east of the California Aqueduct. This report also presents the results of two site record searches conducted for the 2003 project area as well as a one-mile radius around the 2003 project area. Because the current project area is within the original one-mile radius, a new site record search was not conducted. Site record searches were conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield and the South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton in 2003. This report was prepared for Aspen Environmental Group, Agoura Hills, California under the DWR contract number 4600002845.

Project Location and Description

The subject property is located along the western boundary of Antelope Valley, at the edge of the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains (Figure 1). The project area is approximately nine miles east of the city of Gorman, and three and one-half miles north of State Route 138. Quail Lake is roughly three miles to the southwest. The project area is in Section 33 of Township 9 North, Range 17 West, as shown on the USGS 7.5-minute La Liebre Ranch quadrangle, 1995 edition.

The project area encompasses the proposed location of an afterbay as part of the Tehachapi East Afterbay Enlargement project proposed by the Department of Water Resources.

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the western Mojave Desert along the western edge of Antelope Valley. This region averages three inches of rain per year and temperatures range from 0 degrees F to over 100 degrees F. Several drainages and natural springs are found in the surrounding area. Groundwater was probably available to the early inhabitants of the area. The San Gabriel and Tehachapi Mountains merge just to the west of the project area. The Garlock fault zone runs roughly northeast to southwest along the southern edge of the Tehachapi Mountains. The northwest-southeast-trending San Andreas fault zone runs along the northern edge of the San Gabriel Mountains and southern boundary of the Antelope Valley. The two fault zones meet near Gorman.

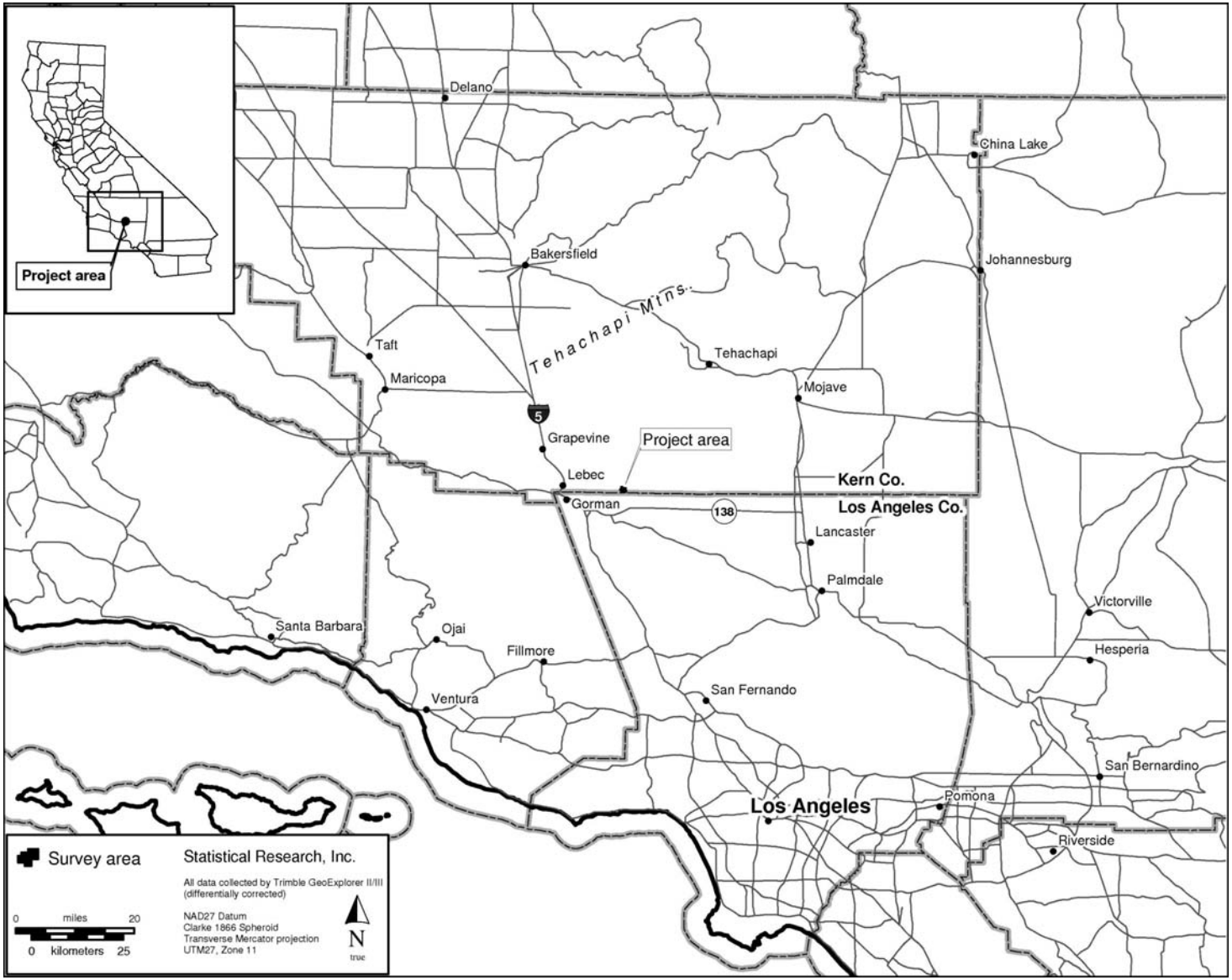

Figure 1. Vicinity map of the Tehachapi East Afterbay Enlargement project area.

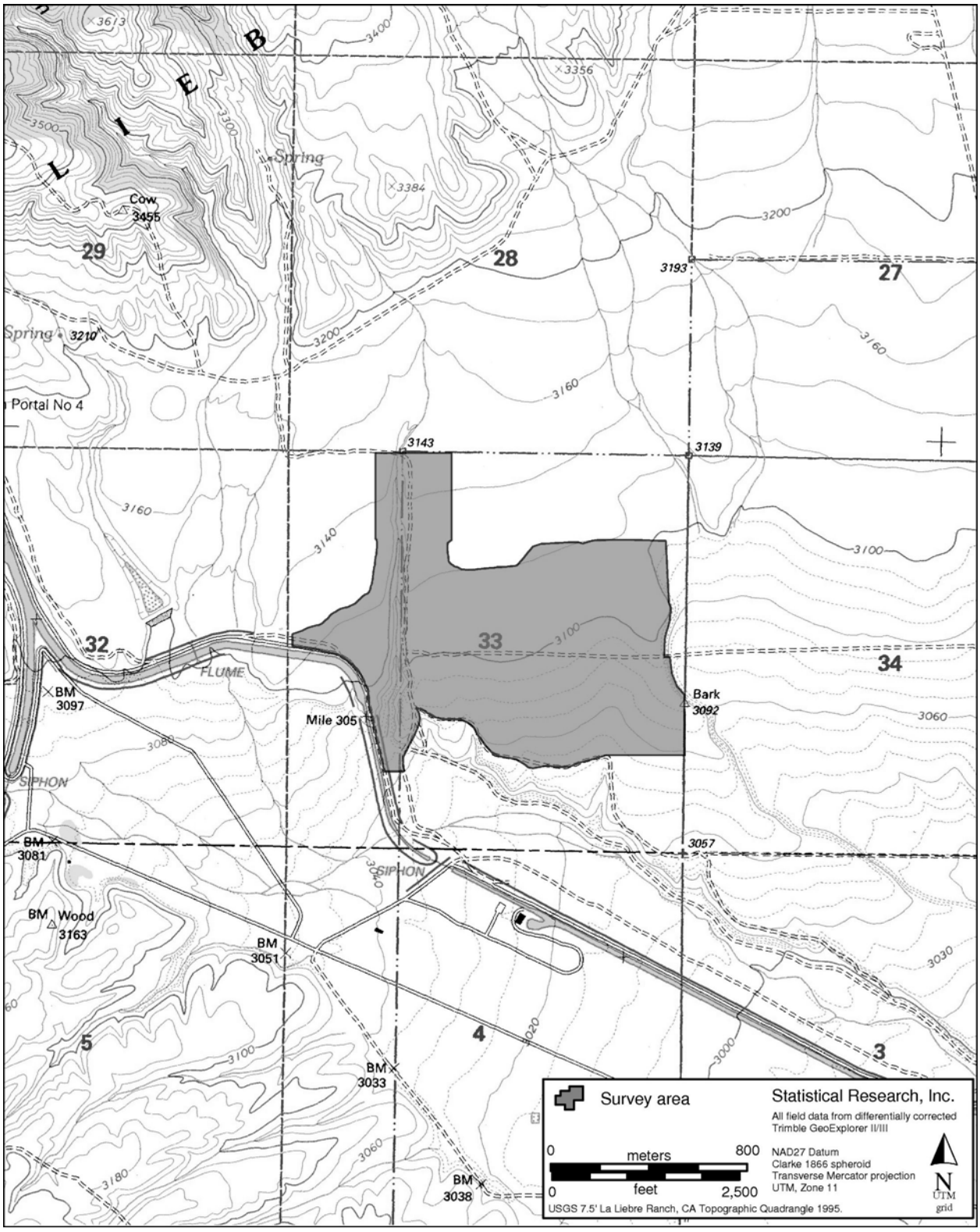

Figure 2. Map of the project area.

Vegetation of the floor of the Antelope Valley includes saltbush (*Atriple* spp.), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), and occasional junipers (*Juniperus* spp.). The lower foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains contain an increased number of junipers. The project area is covered with grasses and a low density of sagebrush. Faunal resources that were procured by the aboriginal inhabitants in the region include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), rabbits (Sylvilagus auduboni), and hares (*Lepus californicus*), and smaller mammals such as wood rats (Neotoma spp.) and Mojave ground squirrels (*Spermophilus mojavensis*).

Cultural Setting

The project area is within the ethnographic territory of the Kitanemuk, a small group that occupied the Tehachapi Mountains at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. Little is know about this group, but based on available data the subsistence system of the Kitanemuk was similar to the Yokuts and inland Chumash (Blackburn and Bean 1978). The Kitanemuk were hunters and gatherers and acorns likely served as their primary subsistence resource. Pinyon pine nuts, yucca, elderberries, and mesquite beans were also available. The Kitanemuk were taken to Mission San Fernando in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Following mission secularization in 1834, surviving Kitanemuk joined Tataviam, Vanyume, and Inland Chumash groups in the Tejon Ranch area. Their descendants are now organized as the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians.

Archaeological research in the region suggests that this area has been continuously occupied since the Paleoindian period (prior to 10,000 years ago). One lanceolate fluted point, identified as a Clovis point was found in the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains (Glennan 1971) suggesting the area was used by Paleoindian groups. Little evidence of occupation of the Tehachapi Mountains region prior to 3000 years ago exists. Based on limited research, it appears that occupation in the region increased in the later prehistoric periods during the past 3000 years. Schiffman and Garfinkel (1981) proposed that the increase in occupation in later periods is linked to climatic change

During the Historic period, two areas were granted by Mexico to claimants (Cowan 1977). Liebre, encompassing 48,800 acres, was granted to Jose M. Flores in 1846. Jose Antonio Aguirre and Ignacio del Valle were granted 97,617 acres in 1843 on what is now known as Tejon Ranch.

Previous Research

According to a search of the cultural resources files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield and South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton, no cultural resources have been recorded in the project area. There have been two previous cultural resources studies (KE-1077, KE-1793) in Kern County, within a one-mile radius of the project area. One archaeological site (CA-KER-987), a bedrock mortar site, was recorded in 1979 (Schiffman and Lewis 1979), but has not been field checked or updated since that time. This site is located _____ of the proposed afterbay site. In 2003, SRI (Duff and Grenda 2003) conducted archaeological survey of 347 acres west of the current project area and found no cultural resources. One of the survey blocks measuring 143 acres was located just west of the current project area and another 204 acres was located roughly one and one-half miles to the west.

Field Methods

SRI was contracted to survey roughly 270 acres, not exceeding 300 acres (Figure 2). Because of the irregular shape of the project area, SRI added buffer zones along portions of the project boundary in order to ensure full coverage of the project area. A total of 291 acres was surveyed. Survey was conducted between July 7, 2004 and July 9, 2004. The survey crew located the corners of the project area and recorded their location using handheld GeoExplorer III global positioning system (GPS) units. The California Aqueduct served as the southwestern boundary of the project area. The survey crew covered the project area by walking linear transects at intervals of approximately 15 m. No cultural resources were found during the survey. Photographs of the project area were taken.

Results

SRI found no cultural resources in the project area. The proposed afterbay location has been impacted by activities related to the California Aqueduct and agricultural and ranching activities. The project area has been impacted by cattle. Grazed and trampled areas were observed throughout the area. Modern trash was noted through most of the survey area. Two well-traveled access roads cross the project area and several other vehicle tracks were also observed. A large north-south-trending ravine is located in the western portion of the project area. This ravine contains pipes and other debris.

Recommendations

No cultural resources were found in the surveyed project area. No mitigation measures are recommended for the surveyed portion of the project area. The project area is highly disturbed by agricultural activities, grazing, and activities related to the construction and maintenance of the California Aqueduct. It is unlikely that subsurface cultural deposits are present. Therefore, we do not recommend monitoring during construction activities.

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